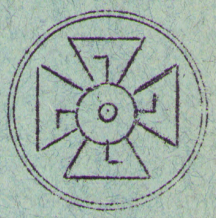
Mystery School Tradition

AND ITS MEANING TO YOU!



Chap I: ESOTERICISM - OCCULTISM - MYSTICISM

Chap II: ORIGIN OF THE MYSTERIES

Chap III: ORIGIN OF THE THREE GREAT OCCULT TRADITIONS

Chap IV: THE PATHS OF THE WESTERN TRADITION

Chap V: THE EVOLUTION AND FUNCTION OF THE MASTERS

Chap VI: THE TRAINING AND WORK OF AN INITIATE

Have you been puzzled and confused by the conflicting claims of the various Schools which supposedly offer esoteric teaching? Many Americans have been and still are as they read the specious advertising of the many teachers, both East and West,

Here is a book which explains the origins of all the Mystery Schools and why they must differ from each other on the physical plane. This is an adaptation of the first six chapters of Dion Fortune's masterful "Esoteric Orders and Their Work", written and published in the 1920's, primarily for an English audience. It can be purchased from her Society of the Inner Light, 38 Steele's Road, London NW 3, England, for a dollar.

The present Director of BSRA, and his wife, have adapted the material for present-day Americans curious to know more about the hidden forces shaping the destiny of the Western world.

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California

Biographical Notes on DION FORTUNE

By the Warden, Society of the Inner Light
(From The Occult Observer, and Round Robin, Nov-Dec,1954)

"Dion Fortune, who founded the Society of the Inner Light, died in January, 1946. Her life was dedicated to the revival of the Mystery Tradition of the West, and when she died she left behind her a solidly established system of teaching and school of initiation based on her wide knowledge of many systems ancient and modern.

"Among sundry papers left by her occurs the following statement: 'Occultism is not a safe water for the inexperienced to swim in and the occult movement has more than its fair share of knaves and fools, and evan with the best intentions in the world self-delusion is painfully easy. Centuries of persecution in the West have broken up its organization and destroyed its literature. The wonder is that the Tradition exists at all -- not that it no better than it is. I hold no brief for the gimcrack pretensions of organizations with portentous titles -- expecially when they offer to raise your consciousness to the Astral plane for one guinea and to the spiritual plane for ten guineas, irrespective of any qualifications you may or may not possess for the experience. I regard the commercialization of the Occult Arts, such as fortune telling in any form, and the retailing of talismans, lucky pigs and other occult haberdashery, with contempt and disgust. These things have nothing to do with occultism as it is known to the initiate who binds himself in his initiation oath not to emplyy the occult arts for gain.

"'An initiate, as I understand the word, is someone who has been through ritual initiation into an occult Order, is in possession of certain key knowledge which alone makes the occult system comprehensible, and is in psychic or intuitive touch with the aspect of occultism which is not on the physical plane at all and is variously called The Temple Not Made With Hands, The College of the Illuminati, and The Great White Lodge.' All her life Miss Fortune had an outspoken contempt for charlatanism and pompous claims, and a sincere desire to help all who were in earnest in the search for truth. The Society she founded continues along those lines.

"In the papers to which I have referred, Dion Fortune describes her first meeting with occultism. She was working at the Medico-Psychological Clinic in Brunswick Square, London, an institution (now defunct) for the treatment of functional nervous disorders by psychoanalysis. She was an early student of Freud, but later discarded his system in favor of that of Jung, for whom she had a great esteem. She maintained that Freud -- or rather his system as practised -- had in it much of great value, but was by no means as comprehensive as then thought, and she found in the Jungian school much of the mystery teachings and a more sane and balanced outlook.

"In the course of her visits to Brunswick Square she found herself one day lunching in the company of some students of the Theosoph-

(Concluded on outside back cover.)

INTRODUCTION

Every race in every age has had the Tradition of the Mystery School. In this School certain secret knowledge generally unknown to the public was taught. But to gain admission to the School, the neophyte had to agree to certain principles and to accept discipline. Also, tests and ritual were part of the program he had to master.

If we are familiar with the folklore of our race, we should know that the Mystery Tradition exists among the most primitive people. Max Freedom Long unearthed the Secret Wisdom of the Hawaiians. European settlers, sympathetic to the culture of the Red Man, discovered traces of the Mystery Teachings and Secret Lodges among the American Indians. This means that the higher teachings have always been available to mankind from the very beginning. And so today, we find this belief in the midst of our modern civilization, though the idea is scoffed at by the material minded and denied by the orthodox. The evidence for the existence of Mystery Schools is revealed in the lives of some of our noblest men, such as George Washington, Jefferson and Franklin, who were Masons and probably Rosicrucians.

To the average man the Mystery Schools and their teachings have been but a rumor; but nevertheless the very existence of this rumor from age to age indicates that there must be some truth behind it. The Aztecs and the Egyptians had no physical contact with each other but the traces of Mystery Schools found in their history have the same form. This indicates that the symbols are from the same source. The proof of the existence of the Mystery Schools cannot be given to an outsider because a student who is accepted in the School and knows of its existence is sworn to secrecy. However, a student or neophyte is permitted to give out enough information to the sincere seeker to guide him to select a School for himself. For this same reason Dinn Fortune's "Esoteric Orders and Their Work" was put out before the public. The person who reads the book will not have proof of the material in it until he has joined a Mystery School and studied and practiced its teachings for himself.

DIVINE ORIGINS OF THE MYSTERIES

The Mystery Schools claim themselves to be the guardians of esoteric wisdom. This wisdom was given to them in the beginning by a Divine Teacher. In the following ages, as some of the disciples developed into great teachers, they added to the body of wisdom and adapted it to the needs of their age.

This Secret Wisdom is really a science. It is the study of the invisible forces which cause things to happen here in the physical world. The Mystery Schools can and do teach the theory of the science to anyone whose character qualifies them for this study. When a student has mastered the theory he is ready to put it to practical use.

Then he receives from the School the ritual initiation which gives him the power to use the science of the occult. In every case there are some who have been initiated and who are thus qualified to back up these claims.

REASON FOR SECRECY

Then the question might be asked: Why dont the Schools teach the secret wisdom openly? Especially when the Schools claim their purpose is to serve mankind and because they have such priceless wisdom to give. Again it might be asked: Why dont the Schools advertise and urge people to join and study with them? Instead the Schools actually seem to be secretive and avoid being known.

If a person understands occult science he knows the reason for secrecy. Occult science deals with two things, 1. The little known powers of man's mind, and 2. The little understood powers of nature. If this science dealt only with theory, there would be no need for secrecy. But when a person discovers the facts of occult science, he realises at once their practical use.

This knowledge is power, power which the mind can use for good or for evil. This power is so potent that it is dangerous for it to be given out to just anyone. This is why the leaders of Mystery Schools guard it so carefully. This power is so secret or so hidden that it is almost impossible to guard against its misuse by those who have no moral principle. And so the guardians of the secret wisdom do their utmost to prevent the unscrupulous from getting hold of it. The leaders of the Schools have set up strict qualifications for those who want to study occult science. But the qualifications are no more strict than those required for a degree in medicine. Normally, spiritual teachings are freely offered to everyone by the churches and certain metaphysical societies. So people do not understand why the Mystery Schools choose to give their teachings to some and refuse to give it to others.

MENTAL SCIENCE AMORAL

The reason for being selective is that occult science is mental and not spiritual. This means "it is neither good nor bad in itself, but only as it is used." In other words, it can be used for good or for evil. It has been used to save souls which otherwise would have become lost. Occult science could also unintentionally destroy souls not qualified to handle its hidden powers. It is not for dabblers and there are only a handful who can follow this dangerous path to the heights.

For these adventurous souls it is a glorious search; it is a "true crusade against the Powers of Darkness and spiritual wickedness in high places." The average man and woman little suspect the occult evil hidden in the world. The only ones who can deal with this evil must have strength, courage and understanding of occult science to cope with it.

The teachings of the Mystery School take the individual above and

beyond the average man. Intensive training is designed to produce an Adept of Power, Wisdom and Love. An Adept is dedicated to serve God and man. That service is to work with evolution, to help increase spiritual development and to protect the leaders of nations from evil influences.

The places where neophyte and Initiate receive their training are not known nor is their work ever seen. They receive their actual training in the invisible world; however, they begin on the physical plane with a group; but as they develop and leave the physical they will have eventually to travel alone. This is the adventure of the Great Quest.

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CHAPTER I

ESOTERICISM OCCULTISM MYSTICISM

Esotericism is the study of the science of the invisible. The invisible starts where the visible world ends. The borderline of the visible advances with science, and so the invisible recedes. This same idea applies to human evolution. The civilized man knows and uses natural laws which seem miraculous to the savage.

Some primitive men and the average men in our society respond to the education available to them and thus increase their capacity. From the physical standpoint, it would be almost impossible to tell when a civilized person is ready to study the Mysteries in preparation for initiation. Out of any miscellaneous group of 100,000 people, say, one might have evolved to the point where he is ready for the Hermetic Path. The teachings of Pagan and Mystic are already developed in him from lives lived in earlier civilizations.

It is the work of the orthodox religions to see to it that every man of the race learns to practice the spiritual ideals of his race. For the Western world in this cycle of civilization the ideal was very clearly stated by Jesus over two thousand years ago in Jerusalem, in reply to a question by a lawyer (Matthew 22:37-40): "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second like unto it is this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments the whole law hangeth, and the prophets." Until an individual has learned to put religious principles to use in his daily life he is not ready for the Mystery teachings.

When a person studies the Lesser Mysteries his goal is to develop himself and to unfold all his latent capacities. This concerns his subjective life. Once he has attained this goal then he is ready for the Greater Mysteries. These deal with his objective world, his natural surroundings. So, the Lesser Mystery training is necessary if one is to master the Greater Mysteries. Part of the discipline of the Lesser Mysteries is to bring the elemental forces within the student under control. If he does not do this, the elemental forces within him will distort his vision and decieve him. Also, his own rebellious inner forces will become a channel for the evil forces from outside to use him for destructive purposes. This is why disciplined training is essential for purification, self-control and the conditioning of body, mind and emotions for practical work.

If a student wishes to contact a Cosmic force he must find that corresponding aspect within himself; however, if he has not purified himself the contact will be of a mixed quality. Will and imagination are the two powers used in magical operations. These two forces themselves are blind. The important thing which gives them direction is

motive -- the purpose of the student or neophyte who is doing the imagining and the willing. The primary motive should be in line with the Cosmic plan for man. Only then will he blend will and imagination for a successful result. If the goal of a student is in line with the Cosmic force then his personality blends with universal purpose. This is why some people seem to succeed in anything they choose to do because their choices serve the Cosmic purpose. The soul of each person is searching for this union with the Cosmos.

TWO UNIONS TO BE ACHIEVED

The personality expresses this desire for union by accumulating physical possessions around him, eventually clogging the life stream with junk. The Individuality, or Higher Self, wants to unify with the Cosmos by expanding itself. This is done by breaking through the limiting boundaries of personality, with its acquisitiveness, and changing the life purpose from selfishness to selflessness, from getting to giving.

After a student has made this change in direction, he should realize that there are two unions to be achieved. 1. He should understand the plan of evolution and consciously align himself with Cosmic purpose. This is the occultist's union with the Divine. 2. The other way is to unite with the Creator of the universe by losing himself in Its vast consciousness. This is the mystic way of union.

The occultist, having achieved his alignment with the Cosmic purpose, still has not reached union with the Creator. He has not yet pierced the Veil of Negative Existence. On the other hand, the mystic has pierced the final veil and achieved union with the Creator but cannot hold this union. He must return to the phenomenal world. So the final goal of every soul is achieved only when both unions are accomplished into one nature which is himself. This means that externally his sympathy unites him with the phenomenal world and internally he is united with the Creator. This is the goal of evolution for all mankind.

A student who goes by the Way of Initiation precedes his fellows on a definite plan laid out for all men. The work of the Mystery Schools is to teach the would-be initiate of the invisible worlds. These worlds have already been explored by the Initiates who have preceded him. Little or nothing of these invisible worlds is known to the average man. Here, a neophyte in a Mystery School separates himself from the mass of mankind and is supported solely by his Master. He is an apprentice in a spiritual workshop.

During this time of training with his Master the neophyte is dealing with an aspect of consciousness not known to anyone in physical form. He also takes several initiations under the direct guidance of his Master, but this kind of guided training eventually comes to an end. There comes a time in the training of an initiate when his Master says to him, "You have learned all I can teach you, now you are fully responsible for the use of all Creative energy." From then on the Initiate is alone with his God.

When the Initiate is alone with his God, it is said that it takes three incarnations unblemished by any error before absolute devotion can be attained. What mortal is without error even after having completed his training with his Master? The orthodox religions teach that a person who lives a pure life here will be taken up into a heaven of eternal bliss. But the Hermetic wisdom teaches that it takes many, many lives of earnest study and selfless devotion before union with the Divine is achieved. The errors of one life have to be patiently sought out and corrected before the Path to the final goal is cleared.

THE PATH NOT FOR DABBLERS

Many of us begin so lightly our studies of the deeper teachings, unaware of what a fearful adventure it is, to separate ourselves from the warmth and support and protection of family and nation, in order to tread the Path of Initiation. However, the suffering along the Way is compensated by increased power and widened understanding. And, in the painful struggle to lift himself above the mass, the would-be initiate can sometimes pause and turn and enjoy the view.

Here Dion Fortune speaks of the Bible story of the flight of the Israelites from Egypt, the journey through the desert and safe passage through the Red Sea. This is the allegory of the student who has chosen the Path of Initiation which frees him from human bondage. The flight from Egypt symbolizes separate from the mass of mankind. Then he must make his own path through the wilderness. Now he must depend upon the power within him to guide him to the Red Sea. Here comes the test of faith which causes many a neophyte to turn back to the shelter of his family and his race. But if he passes the test of faith, then the waters of the Red Sea will part before him. Only the higher law will hold back the waters while he passes through.

After he passes through the Red Sea he still has to make his own path through the wilderness. But now waters flow from the rocks to refresh him and manna falls from heaven to nourish him. The higher law sustains him even though he is still in the world of flesh.

* * *

CHAPTER II

THE ORIGIN OF THE MYSTERIES

Before we can understand the facts of and the need for initiation in the present, we must go back into the past to the beginnings of human evolution. The earliest races were quite different from our present day men. Occult science calls the different species of mankind Root Races. The present Root Race is the fifth on this planet. The first two of the four Root Races which preceded ours have been named Polarian and Hyperborean. Both of these names referred to Polar regions which were first to form a solid crust. This was the only place firm enough for the earliest of mankind to be brought. In these first two races consciousness was not yet individualised. This embryonic man was overshadowed by a group soul. The idea of a group soul can best be seen today in a colony of ants or a swarm of bees. Bird migrations are another example of group soul in action.

As time went on these embryo humans gained experience. During incarnation each one used the mind-stuff of the group soul for his own development. That portion of the mind-stuff which was drawn away from the group was organised into a complex which gave it a certain individuality. Each complex was organised around a nucleus, a Divine Spark which tended to hold this complex together even when mind-stuff was reabsorbed back into the group-soul at the end of an incarnation. These were the beginnings of an individualisation into human form. As evolution continued these individualised entities became more complex and less easily controlled by the group soul. The Logos, the Creator or God of our system, realised that these embryo humans had reached the end of one phase of their evolution. For the next step the Logos called for Adepts of a previous cycle.

The work of these Adepts was to form images and present them to the minds of the earliest humanity by means of telepathy, a mental impregnation. The images stimulated the feelings of the primitive humans and encouraged them to think. This method speeded their evolution by saving them the necessity of building the images through ages of experience.

In the beginning of our universe, the First Cosmic Day, there were no Adepts; so the first wave of humanity had to go through the slow process of accumulating experiences from which images could be built to start thinking. But later life waves could quickly repeat those early stages because there were Adepts to help them. When a life wave reached the goal achieved by a previous wave then they had to extend themselves to a higher goal. This meant that they then had to struggle with the raw material of creation.

Consciousness enabled man to learn from experiencing the world around him. This developed his concrete mind, his objective mind,

adding on to the inspirational images which had already been received telepathically from the Adepts. These inspirational images from the Adepts were received subconsciously, as were the influences of the group soul. In the beginning these images guided the behavior of infant mankind. But as time went on the concrete consciousness became stronger and over-ruled the group mind. When this happened, the authority of the Logos operating through the group soul of mankind to individual conscious minds was lost. The Logos did not want to lose control of mankind, so there was the necessity of reestablishing the link between the conscious mind and the subconscious. This is the work of the Cosmic Initiator or the Manu.

The Manus are the Great Ones who achieved Adepthood in the preceding evolutionary period. Of all the Lords of evolution they are the closest to us. They came to help mankind in the middle of the Atlantean period. These Adepts are "High Priests after the Order of Melchisedec." Their work was to communicate with the consciousness, the concrete minds of men, thus forming a link between the consciousness and subconsciousness so men could respond to the inspirations from the Logos.

WHEN GODS WALKED THE EARTH

In order to communicate with the concrete minds of men these Great Ones had to materialize a form similar to the anthropoid bodies of the primitive men. For these Great Ones to force their tremendous spiritual and mental power into these primitive bodies was very difficult; because of this they couldn't hold the form together for very long at a time. This is why the old legends speak of appearances and disappearances of the Gods. These are the Founders of the cultures of different races.

While on the physical plane these Great Ones selected the best adaptable members of the race. These chosen ones were taught to use their minds to recognise the subtle vibrations of higher spheres. These higher vibrations were only instinctively felt by other members of the race. Once the Great Ones succeeded in getting their pupils to leave their bodies and rise upon the planes, the Divine Teachers withdrew back to the higher planes where they could function more easily. Here the pupils came to continue their instruction. Then the pupils returned to the physical plane to train the others who were to follow. This is the way the Mystery Schools were built, countless ages ago.

The occult Mystery Schools brought the worship of the Sun to Atlantis. The Mystery teachings of the Atlantean schools of initiation trace directly back to the first pupils of the Great Ones. These first Teachers of mankind had witnessed the creation of the earth; so they knew from direct experience the teachings they gave to their pupils. Because the Great Ones had eye-witnessed the various phases of evolution, they could teach their pupils these truths also; therefore the story of evolution of our universe is taught by the Mystery Schools.

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CHAPTER III

THE ORIGIN OF THE THREE GREAT OCCULT TRADITIONS

Adapted from Dion Fortune's "Esoteric Orders and Their Work" by Judith Crabb.

Some years ago Meade Layne copied the first couple of pages from Dion Fortune's book for Round Robin. Mrs. Crabb came upon this excerpt and, being familiar with the original, felt that the ideas in this chapter should be made available to the Associates. The following was written down during the long, long hours of driving on the eastern trip. Judy would read a sentence or two aloud, discuss it with the director as he drove; then she wrote down the result. We believe this material will help to resolve some of the present day confusion about the various Mystery Schools and their separate origins.

I realise now, after several years of study, that the teachings and symbolism of many different schools of occultism are fundamentally the same. They all teach purification, discipline and concentration. They also have graded courses of study. But the schools are not identical because they are influenced by different Rays, or sources of Light from the Inner Planes. Each school came into being at a different time in the earth's history and thus it possesses the characteristics of the aspect of the Logos dominant at that time.

The three great traditions trace back to Atlantean times. Among the many disasters which shook that ancient continent there were cataclysms of interest to the present day student of metaphysics. Dion Fortune doesn't date them but perhaps we can find a clue in three of the six maps which accompany W. Scott Elliot's book, "The Story of Atlantis." Anyhow, three cataclysms especially were foreseen by the initiates of the time, so before each of these occurred preparations were made to send migrations to safe lands where lodges and centers of the Ancient Wisdom could be formed. The chosen ones took their Sacred Books with them. They drew their authority as initiates from the Manu of the time, the First Ray leader of the race.

The Logos of our system is a Triune God. His three aspects are power, wisdom and love. Only one of these aspects is dominant at any given time but the other two are always present and active. The aspect of the Logos dominant at the time of the first cataclysm was the Will aspect. Will has Power for its

keynote. These first migrants moved eastward from Atlantis across what is now northern Europe and Asia until their way was blocked by the Yellow Sea. Then they turned southward along the coast lands of Asia to what is now Indo-China. here the Atlanteans contacted the decadent magic of the of the Lemurian culture. There was an intermingling of the old Lemurian with the new Atlantean. This Will aspect of Atlantean magic became polluted.

Thus the present day primitive magic of Asia traces back to the Power aspect of this first Atlantean tradition. To Western occultists it is known as the Pagan Ray. This deals with the forces of the lower Astral plane.

It is a principle of occultism that each plane of life is controlled by the plane above it. The Astral plane therefore controls the physical. The forces of the lower Astral are destructive; so, any person who works consciously on the Astral plane should be a qualified initiate. This means that he should be able to cotrol the Astral forces from above; otherwise he might become obsessed by them.

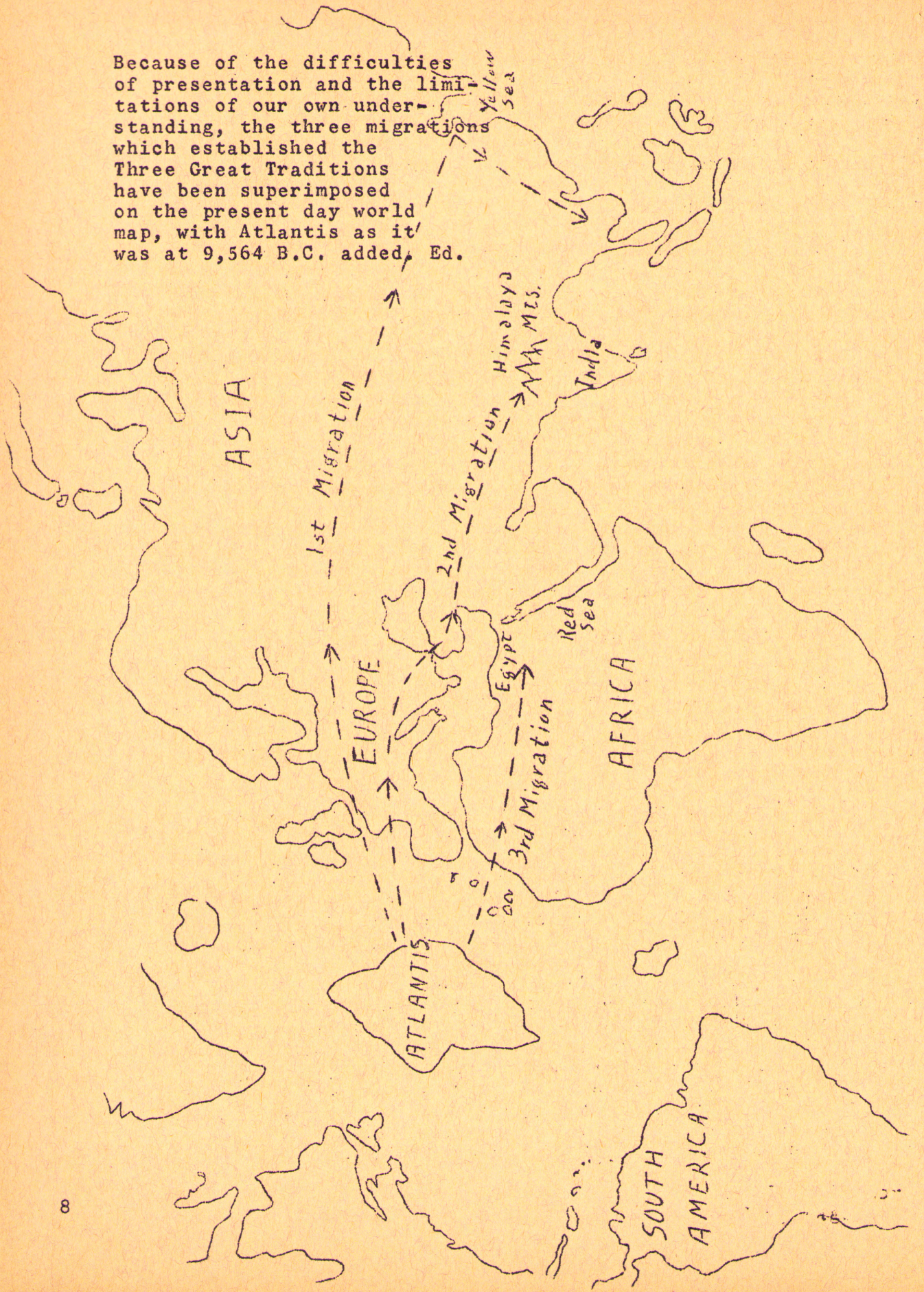
THE SECOND MIGRATION

The second migration left Atlantis (before the cataclysm of 80,000 B.C.?) crossed southern Europe and moved on east ward until they were stopped by the Himalayamountains of Tibet. These Atlanteans were under the Wisdom aspect of the Logos. In this highland of Asia the migrants established the center which is still the main source of illumination of the Wisdom religions of the East. Then they began to spread their culture down the great water ways on to the plains of India.

The third migration started before the cataclysm which caused the last remnant of Atlantis to go under the waves, probably 9,564 B.C. Again the movement was eastward but this time across northern Africa until stopped by the Red Sea. Here the refugees from Poseidonis settled down in the fertile delta of the Nile Valley and established a center which became what we know as the Egyptian culture.

Once settled down the Atlanteans began to cultivate trade. Their ships sailed to all ports around the Mediterranean and to the Near East. The Egyptian philosophy went along with the traders and so it was spread all over the Mediterranean. The students of this philosophy, born under the Love aspect of the Logos, traveled from their foreign lands to Egypt to take initiations in the great occult tradition of the West. Then these initiated adepts returned to their homelands, Phoenicia and Greece, and started their

Because of the difficulties of presentation and the limitations of our own understanding, the three migrations which established the Three Great Traditions have been superimposed on the present day world map, with Atlantis as it was at 9,564 B.C. added, Ed.



own Mystery Schools. These Schools had thus been in existence for thousands of years when Christ came to Palestine, and when Constantine made Christianity a state religion in the 4th Century. And it was the Greek initiates who translated the spiritual teachings of Christianity into an intellectual system called the Gnostic teaching.

As the Christian church became strong the Mystery Schools were driven underground and left little trace of their existence during the Dark Ages. So, except for an occasional Hebrew Kabalist, Europe apparently had no Mystery Schools until the Crusaders went to the Holy Land in the 11th and 12th Centuries. In fighting to gain possession of Jerusalem, and in the occasional peaceful periods which followed, some of the Crusaders came in touch with the still-active Mystery Schools of the Near East. One result of this contact was the formation of the Knights Templars. Templar initiates returned to Europe taking the Ancient Wisdom with them. They flourished for over a hundred years as the Mysteries were taught through the Templar organizations across Europe. But the Church again drove them underground and ended their public existence with the burning of Jacques De Molay before the Cathedral of Notre Dame of Paris in 1314. It wasn't until the Reformation weakened the power of the Church in the 16th Century that the ancient wisdom of the Mystery Schools was again available in Europe, through the Alchemists.

THE DIFFERENCES IN THE TRADITIONS

As the communications between races and nations increased and developed, the cultures spread more widely over the world and the various aspects of the Traditions intermingled. Naturally, the teachings were modified but the forces invoked in initiations are still distinct and the methods of training are different also.

A magician on the Pagan Ray works from below upward. He uses the objects of the physical plane as a guide to control the subtle aspects. He is trained to select natural objects which are best suited to put him in touch with the invisible world and this gives him an open channel. A good example is the Hawaiian Kahuna with a bundle of sacred bones of a deceased relative. One has to investigate closely before he can decide whether the power is in the bones or in the Kahuna.

The Pagan Ray magician alsouses drugs to free his consciousness from his body. He then can travel Astrally or talk to the gods for needed information. He follows rigidly and without question the teachings given him. He operates by rule-of-thumb.

The Second Tradition developed a vast knowledge of its own by studying and practicing magic. These students of the

wisdom of the Mysteries already had the magic of the Pagan Ray and they added to it higher initiations.

THE WESTERN TRADITION

The Western Esoteric Tradition derived from the third emigration from Atlantis. This was the last from the doomed continent just before it went down into the sea in 9,564 B.C. The wisdom of its civilization went down with it. The priests who guided this migration took with them the Sacred Books and Symbols. In Egypt they founded a temple where they worshipped the Sun and also taught the Mysteries. Because the Love aspect of the Logos was dominant at this time, this is the primary characteristic of the Mystery Schools of the Third Emigration. One of its ideals is Brotherhood.

The priests of the Third Emigration were trained in the same tradition as the priests of the First and Second. So the Third had acquired the Power aspect of the First and the Wisdom aspect of the Second. They repeated the work of the two preceding aspects and brought their new culture up to that of Atlantis before the cataclysm. The new ideals of Love and of Brotherhood were brought forth by the work of the Master Jesus.

So the Western Tradition has all three aspects of the Logos: First, the Nature aspect or Power Ray, with its initiations of the Astral , the lower and upper Astral planes; Second, the Wisdom aspect corresponding to the mind, with initiations for lower or concrete mind and upper or abstract mind; Third, the Devotional and Spiritual aspects are represented by the Master of Masters, Jesus of Nazareth, with initiations corresponding to the transfiguration and the ascension. These three aspects form the Western Tradition. One by itself will not give balanced development.

NATURE WORSHIP

Unless the Power aspect of Nature worship is controlled by intellectual development and mind training, the sub-human aspects will dominate in the sub-consciousness of the student. The sub-human aspects will exagerate his normal vices. For example, if he likes the taste of liquor the uncontrolled power of the Pagan Ray will make him an alcoholic.

And unless the Intellectual Ray or Wisdom aspect of an individual be illuminated by the Devotional aspect of the Brotherhood Ray, his exaltation will make him intolerant of other people. Finally, a student who concentrates only on the Wisdom and Love aspects needs the balancing of the Pagan Ray with its positive aspects of the sweetness and beauty of the Nature contacts.

All three Rays, Power, Wisdom and Love unite in the Sun. In the lower planes these Rays are separate and distinct, but as they approach the Sun they draw together. In the Sun they blend together into one. At the higher levels of life and consciousness the initiates of all Mystery Schools stand together upon one common purpose, that of uplifting mankind. But in the lower, form worlds the Mystery Schools differ from each other. They use different methods of work because of the different conditions in which they operate. The invocations used to call the angelic hosts of the East will not get response from the angels of the West. Nor will the Words of Power which exorcise Tibetan devils cause the American ghosts to disappear. This is because these Words of Power are derived under the influence of different Rays.

Mantrams and prayers of one Mystery School cannot be carried over to another School to produce the same results unless adjusted by a trained occultist. It is because only a Master knows the correspondences in the teachings of the Schools.

A symbol of one type of force can be represented by another symbol in a different religion. These two symbols have the same force behind them. When these symbols are translated from one country to another the names and signs of their gods are also changed. Often times the students disregard the importance of changes and concentrate only on similarities. They believe that the changes are due to local customs and language. For example, it is logical that all religions have a symbol for the Sun. So when a student sees a Sun symbol he can see he is dealing with the same potency.

It is extremely important that the Words of Power are correctly pronounced and correctly written. Whatever changes are made in name and symbol must be made for a good reason. One of the reasons for changing names from country to country is to make the force fit the conditions where it is operated.

A Mystery School of any race naturally belongs to that race. So when one type of teaching is transplanted into another race, it will not produce the same results. Importing Zen Budhism or Yoga disciplines into America, for instance. The teachings of the Schools should not be mixed; however, on the higher planes racial differences disappear. The Adepts work on an equal basis. So they have identical illumination.

"Meditation and asceticism will bring the Eastern chela or student to the feet of his Master," writes Dion Fortune, "but the Western initiator, working in the much denser material conditions of that civilization, has to employ ritual to get his results -- ritual that very few Eastern bodies could stand!"

The Eastern meditations lower the vitality of the body. Western living conditions require powerful forces and these forces demand a strong body to handle them. So it is very dangerous for the Western occult student to use Eastern methods in the hard driving Western civilization.

Methods of Mystery Schol training developed under one type of life, learned during a particular regime and illuminated by the specific Logoidal aspect dominant at that time are not suited for practical work in another type of life. The evidence of unbalanced results shows in the nervous strain of the student. A student who wishes to follow the yogi methods should lead the yogi life; otherwise he will break down.

The forces used in the East require a very sensitive vehicle for work. An Eastern student eliminates animal foods, alcoholic beverages, sex, animal passions, etc. Whereas the Western forces require a strong physical body to use the lower etheric and emotional forces needed in successful daily life in a Western community. The Western student does not retire from his world; he stays in it and uses his forces to improve conditions around him! The Eastern method sensitizes the student so he can receive illumination. Because he has already isolated himself from his society in some remote area, his illumination does not fit the heavy vibrations of the community from which he came. Western methods increase the power of the total personality so the student can overpower the lower vibrations of his environment. The Eastern teacher must require his pupils to follow the conditions of the East, and the student must go to the East for the higher degrees.

Far back in the beginnings of Western civilization we find the symbols and forces which have made the Western world what it is today. The Mystery Schools of the West have derived their systems from these same Western symbols and forces. Any Western student who joins or studies one of these schools will not alienate himself from his race. Instead he learns to cooperate with the forces of his race, working toward fulfillment of the plan of evolution.

The Western Tradition goes back to Atlantean times. Thus the Mystery Schools have been in Egypt, the Near East and Europe since that time. So the Western student has a tremendous reservoir of Tradition from which he can draw inspiration and guidance. This Tradition includes the Pagan Ray worship of the Celt, the Hermetic studies of the Kabala, the Alchemists, the Rosicrucians, the Masonic Brotherhood, and Mystic Christianity with its tradition of the Holy Grail from the time of King Arthur.

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~~CHAPTER XIV~~

THREE PATHS FOR MAN TO FOLLOW

Students approaching the Path must realise that there are actually three paths, the Pagan, the Hermetic and the Mystic. These three paths can be related to the three levels of consciousness recognised by psychology. The Pagan would be subconsciousness, the Hermetic would be consciousness, and the Mystic would be superconsciousness. In terms of time the Pagan Ray or Path represents the early development of man. This development took place in the past when man was descending down into the denser planes. The Mystic refers to the future. This is the return to Unity from whence man came.

The Pagan and the Mystic Paths deal with force. As force descends from level to level into more dense planes, it organises into more and more complex forms. These forces are equilibrated through counter-balancing of pairs of opposites. The perfect equilibrium of force is established "when the warring forces become equilibrated through the coercion of matter." This is the descending or involutionary process.

In the ascending or evolutionary process the forces retain their equilibrium without the restriction of matter. On the downward arc the forces are balanced through opposition, whereas on the upward arc the forces balance through alternating rhythmic sequences. The Pagan Ray deals with force as it comes down into denser forms. The Hermetic Ray is force organised into form. The Mystic Ray is force freed from form.

The mind of the pagan is not developed so his consciousness is instinctive. Modern man has developed and uses a thinking consciousness. For a modern man to try to use Pagan Ray methods means that he is going backward in evolution!

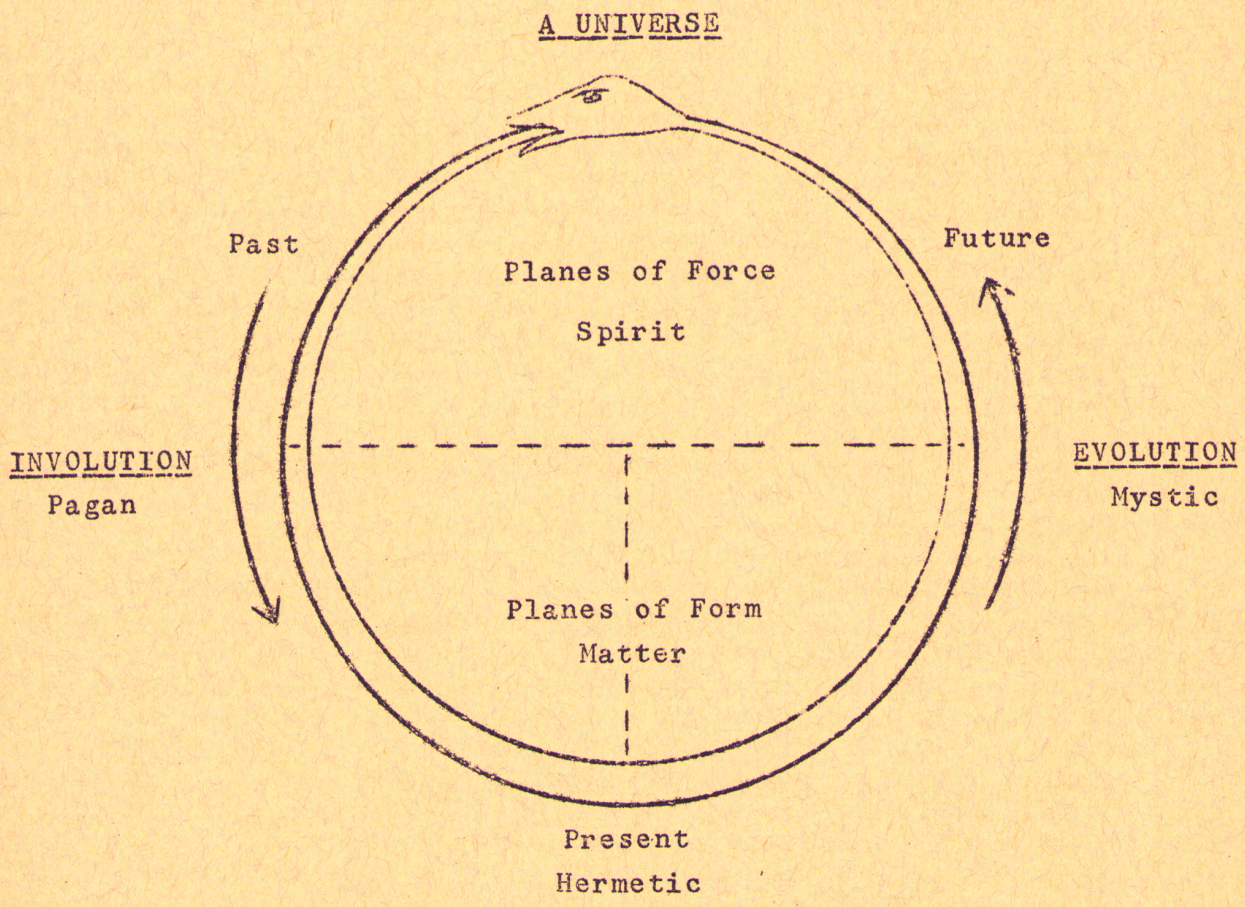
Mystical consciousness is superconsciousness. This means that it is above the mind. Anyone who wants to achieve Mystical consciousness will have to rise above the rational mind, but he will have to have trained himself in rational thinking before he can raise himself to superconsciousness. However, if the student sets rational thinking aside he will fall into subconsciousness rather than rise into superconsciousness. He draws his power from the subconscious, the world of elemental forces. The instincts give rise to emotions and emotions are expressed in imagination. The images thus created are those of a past evolutionary period, characterized by primitive violence. A student of the Mysteries who tries to achieve Mystic superconsciousness without taking the time to develop his mind will release uncontrollable elemental forces within himself. One result of this would be an explosive desire to blast through anything or anyone which is in the way.

The third phase of consciousness concerns the future. It is the Mystic Path. This frees the consciousness from form. Thus it can perceive truth directly. In rational thinking the mind takes time to evaluate from one idea to another, but intuitive consciousness sees a problem and its solution instantaneously. The forces of Mystic consciousness are Cosmic consciousness not yet organised into matter.

Midway between the Pagan and the Mystic is the Hermetic. This is human consciousness. The work of the rational mind is to analyse the intuitive visions and the primitive passions and interpret them in the light of waking consciousness.

THE THREE WAYS TO GOD

These three Rays are three ways to God and there are initiations for each Path. These three levels of consciousness are not considered as three steps on one Path in regards to initiation. But from the evolutionary standpoint this is true because we have all three characteristics within us.



The Pagan Ray is past and repressed in us. The Mystic Ray is in the future and yet unrealised. The Hermetic is present and in con-

sciousness. On the inner planes time and space do not exist. All these are in man at the same time. The rational mind can shift into the past at will. When it does so the past event is present. Also when the rational mind visualises a future event, that event is in present time. The Lower Self, the personality, lives in a world of illusion. It sees only reflections of life until life brings to it an aspect of Truth. At this moment the personality is living in present time and is at one with its Higher Self. Such revelations are not necessarily pleasant. Consider the woman who is blissfully unaware of her husband's extra-marital affair, until the mistress comes to the wife and demands that the husband be freed so the mistress can marry him.

FULL CONSCIOUSNESS IS THE GOAL

An Adept lives in full consciousness all the time. He is aware of the past, the future and the present, and is free to focus his attention anywhere at will.

Each Path has its own technique, so there are three techniques taught in the Mystery Schools: the Pagan, the Intellectual, and the Mystic or Devotional. These differences of technique are applicable to different types of people, and they are for those who are at different levels of evolutionary development.

Primitive man must be trained on the Pagan Ray, and after adequate training he may contact superconsciousness. The overly developed Devotional types are usually found in monasteries or in highly developed civilizations. They have deliberately separated themselves from the Pagan, the Green Ray power, so their training must teach them how to renew contacts with the subconscious, with the power of the Pagan Ray. In either case, to reach fully balanced development, Pagan or Mystic will have to shift into the Hermetic Path. If he does not shift over then he remains in his Path and has only one-sided development. Such specialisation will give him tremendous talent but beyond a certain point he cannot go. So, it isn't until his next life that he can shift into the Hermetic Path, because it is only on the Hermetic Path that one can get the balance necessary to complete his evolution.

A person whose mind is not yet developed should remain in the Ray in which he began his evolution, until he is ready for mental development. The Pagan or Green Ray is for the primitive child of nature. It is also for the moral rebels. These are people who have become utterly disgusted with the hypocrisy and the brutality of civilisation. A return to a primitive environment is necesaary to give the soul a chance to bring itself back into balance.

A good example of such a moral rebellion is the two writers, James Hall and Charles Nordhoff. Embittered by their experiences as military pilots for the Allies in World War I they fled the immoral corrosions of Western Civilization and found refuge in Tahiti and other pagan islands of the South Pacific. Judging from the literature they produced, Hurricane, Faery Lands of the South Seas, and other books, the healing was successful. Of course, such a radical change in environment is the choice of the soul, not the personality.

TWO TYPES OF THE MYSTIC

There are two types of people who are attracted to the Mystic Path. One is the person who has mastered the teachings of the civilization he is in and can receive illumination directly. The other is the person who cannot withstand the temptations of civilization, and must run from it to the monastic life. A good example of the latter is the young American, Thomas Merton. In his book "The Seven Story Mountain" he describes his trials and temptations in New York and his final flight to the Trappists. The Church is a refuge for the moral cripples; just as a pagan environment is a refuge for the moral rebels. In either case, of course, the development cannot be perfect.

A true Mystic is one who has succeeded in lifting his consciousness above his mind. He is not affected by his passions. Church history abounds with examples of this type, Innocent III among the Popes, for instance, and George Fox, founder of the Quakers. On the other hand, a moral cripple has not succeeded in lifting his consciousness above his mind and his emotions and is only repressing them. His flight to a religious order cuts himself off from the nature contacts which make for a balanced life. Of the two types who need the Mystic Path, the one who has mastered his emotions is near the end of his human evolution, the other has not found satisfaction in the normal way of life and must detour for a lifetime or two. While on the Mystic Path both may receive Hermetic teachings, and the moral cripple may receive the balance necessary to cope with the problems from which he escaped.

The undeveloped man of nature must follow the Green Path until the studies and experiences develop his mind. Then he can shift into the Hermetic Ray. A man who has been hurt by civilization should go to the Green Ray for healing his psychic injuries. His high expectations of civilization are not fulfilled. Once he achieves balance he can return to the Hermetic Path.

In both the Pagan and the Mystic, persons who are rebellious toward civilization or who are crippled by it, have their emotional and mental illnesses cured. Then they are ready for the Hermetic Path, which has the three Paths in equilibrium. Any soul, during its evolutionary period, will choose the Path it needs at any given time. Then there are souls which have been influenced by the false or twisted concepts of civilization. These souls have to choose a Path which brings them back into balance.

THE PAGAN RAY INITIATE

A person initiated in the Green Ray is capable of using Elemental forces, but he is not capable of reaching the superconscious levels for inspirational guidance. On the other hand, the Mystic has the superconscious contact but lacks power for practical work. He has deliberately separated himself from the elemental forces with which he began his evolution. The Mystic knows his goal but lacks power to achieve it; the Pagan has power but does not know his goal yet? The Hermetic Path is midway between the two.

As Dion Fortune says, In the Hermetic Wisdom is equilibrium,

synthesis and completion. Both the Pagan and the Mystic are subsidiary Paths which merge with the Hermetic. There are evidences of these three Paths here in the physical world. They are fully revealed to the trained observer in myth, glyph, symbols and in ritual. A person who is ready for the Hermetic Path should be capable of contacting the Pagan and the Mystic forces as he needs them in his practical work.

The Trinity -- Pagan, Mystic and Hermetic -- can be related to the three phases of evolution, the three levels of consciousness, and the three levels of personal experience. The Saturn of the Old Gods represents the Pagan Ray. The Christ, the Son of God, represents the Hermetic Ray; and the Holy Spirit of the Higher Self represents the Mystic Ray.

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This chapter on the Three Paths is not to be found in Dion Fortune's "Esoteric Orders and Their Work", but is taken from her other writings. We included it here because it seemed so appropriate to a full understanding of the Mystery Tradition.

CHAPTER IV

THE PATHS OF THE WESTERN TRADITION

There are several Mystery Schools which constitute the Western Tradition. Each School represents a Ray from the Logos, the God, or Creator of this system. Each Ray is supposed to have its distinctive color but the Schools dont seem to agree which color represents what Ray. Some teachers have taught that the First Ray represents the first plane; but it is not as simple as that because the planes were not developed in a single Ray cycle. There were periods of rest while the planes were being built, and at times more than one Ray was active.

There is a true color identification for each Ray but this is secret. For the sake of the readers we will identify each Ray with the Mystery School developed in the Ray. We will also identify them with the planes and states of consciousness.

A detailed explanation of the Rays cannot be given here. It would require a book. A Theosophical interpretation of the Rays is given in Chapter 12 of C.W.Leadbeater's book, "The Masters and the Path". Alice Bailey's book, "A Treatise on the Seven Rays" is devoted to the subject, and her "The Destiny of Nations" is a masterful analysis of Ray influence on the nations of the world in this time of crisis.

The Rays represent the out-pouring of the Logos. These out-pourings make channels through the inner planes to the physical plane. Once the paths are made the life impulse continues to flow. This flow sustains all living existence. It creates the planes of manifestation, one after the other. To manifest into the physical world each Ray has to come through an incarnate being. In the earliest days of mankind this service was performed by the Great Ones from the preceding system. They volunteered to do this work. After each had completed His Ray channel into the physical world He withdrew into the inner planes where He continued to focus His particular Ray into manifestation. These Great Ones were then called the Lords of the Rays, or Star Logoi.

Each plane of human consciousness corresponds to the planes created by the Rays. Four general types of planes are the physical, Astral or emotional, mental and spiritual. If a person wants to stimulate a plane or level of consciousness into active functioning, he has to use the forces of the Ray which created that level or plane. This has to be done by an appropriate ritual.

All human beings possess all seven aspects of the Rays. In any one life only one or two aspects are dominant, while the others are latent. A person with all seven aspects well-balanced is rare. It should be remembered that the latent Ray aspects are functioning. These might be considered as the subconscious.

RAY BALANCE IS THE GOAL

An example of active Ray functioning would be a person governed by his emotions. In this case his dominant Ray would be the one which created and now sustains the Astral plane. If a person is a thinker he would rule his heart with his head. In this case the Mental Ray is dominant in him. When a person comes to a Mystery School to study for initiation the problem of the instructor is to get the student to develop his subordinate Rays to achieve a perfect balance. It is no problem to encourage a person to further develop his natural talent or the thing he does best. The problem is to get the student to shift his attention to the undeveloped talents which will give balance. If he is an intellectual he should increase his power to love; and if he lets his heart rule his life he should develop his mental powers for balance.

As the would-be occult students approach the Path, the experienced instructor knows that they will naturally separate into groups according to types. So each type or group will require specialized training. Regardless of these different types, however, they are all given the same basic training in the Lesser Mysteries. There are three primary objectives in this basic, preliminary training:

1. Purification of mind, emotions and body.

2. Discipline of character.

3. Development of concentration.

These three objectives must be built into the personality, otherwise a student will fail "because of too early specialisation". After these three qualifications have been mastered then he is ready for the Greater Mysteries. Here he makes a dedication; it is accepted; and he passes on to the greater work.

In the Greater Mysteries the Initiate works one Ray at a time until he acquires the powers of that plane of consciousness which the Ray represents. Each Ray has its own level of consciousness and when an Initiate has worked on all seven of them his personality will be well-balanced, purified and harmonised within himself. Then he is ready to specialise in the Ray which suits his temperament, and from here on he actually works on his Ray.

Even if his Ray is the Upper Spiritual Plane the Initiate should be able to control the Lower Astral Plane in order to do practical work. on the other hand is his Ray in the Lower Astral, he will also need the governing power of the Upper Spiritual to control the powerful elemental forces of the Lower Astral with which he works; otherwise he will be pulled down by these non-human forces to their level. A case in point might be Lucifer (Isaiah 14:12): "How art thou fallen from heaven, O day-star, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, that didst lay low the nations!"

As we said before we have all seven planes of consciousness within ourselves; these have been developed under the authority of the Lord of that Ray or plane of consciousness. His name is the supreme Word

of Power for that Plane and Ray.

THE TWO WESTERN RAYS

The goal of occult training is to bring all Rays into balance in the student. The Mystery Schools should do this; but each School usually concentrates on those Rays which dominate the race or nation of which it is a part. The Western training deals with the Rays of the Concrete Mind and the Concrete Spirit; whereas the Eastern Tradition deals with the Rays which created and sustain the etheric aspect of physical matter and the Plane of Abstract Spirit. The Eastern disciplines which deal with these are Hatha Yoga and Raja Yoga, respectively.

Each era of history has developed one or another aspect of the Rays. Students of the Greek Mystery Schools concentrated on the Rays of Upper Astral and Abstract Mind. So, if one wants to study a particular Ray, he will look for a Mystery School which teaches that Ray.

SEVENTH HEAVEN

At the present stage of evolution the Plane of Abstract Spirit cannot be contacted while a person is in his body. One reason is that the Seventh Ray has not as yet manifested in the physical world. This means that it has not been focussed through the consciousness of an incarnate being. If a neophyte or an Initiate wants to contact the Seventh Ray he has to put his body into deep trance and rise up to that Seventh Plane or Abstract Spirit. This ability is not often found nowadays and can only be developed in retreat under ascetic conditions. This method has been much used in the East and is known as the Buddhic Ray. The outstanding example in the West is the Catholic Mystic, St. Theresa of Avila (16th Century) who succeeded in contacting the Plane of Abstract Spirit in her meditations, one result of which was to bring much-needed reforms to the Carmelite Order and to the Church, as she brought that Divine Light back with her to the physical world.

In Christian terms the invocation is to the Holy Ghost and the contacts with the Seventh Plane are made through it. The actual application of this ritual is the withdrawal of the soul from the world. This is not done until a person is ready to finish his last incarnation on the wheel of birth and death. But if this is done before his human evolution is complete, he will stifle his spiritual growth! This Buddhic Ray aspect has been so extensively emphasized in the East that it has paralyzed their human progress. Too many of the advanced souls who should have been the spiritual leaders of the people, deserted the field of battle for the peace and quiet of mountain retreats, and left their civilizations in the hands of the bastards. The best example of this type of behavior in Europe was the Quietists, who turned away from the world to seek utter stillness of the soul. Madame Guyon is one of the best known of the Quietists. Fortunately for India, Mahatma Gandhi wasn't much interested in Seventh Ray contacts!

The consciousness of the present Western civilization is focussed in the Sixth Ray. This is the plane of Concrete Spirit. This Ray deals with the qualities of Love, Goodness, Truth and Purity. These are the spiritual qualities to be developed by the people incarnate

in this civilization. This is known as the Christian Ray. Its Ray Logos is the Master Jesus, who helped to manifest it on the physical plane. The Sixth Ray Initiation is the goal of human evolution at this time.

THE GOLDEN RULE

The visions of the Christian saints come from contacts with the Sixth Ray. The teachings of the contact with this Plane of Concrete Spirit were given in the Upper Room to the disciples. While down below the people were given a rule of life, the Golden Rule. Those who follow the Golden Rule faithfully will eventually come to the Upper Room where they too will receive the Secret Wisdom. This is available to all but is kept separate until a person is ready. It is this Christian Ray which shines through the Holy Grail. This Sixth Ray is the hidden power of Christianity. The person who follows the Way of the Cross comes to the Church of the Grail -- which is not seen but realized.

THE EUCHARIST

If the Christian devotee truly understands the significance of the Sacrament of the bread and the wine, the church made of stone will fade away and his devotion will bring him to the Church not made with hands. The Christian Mystic comes to his Church to worship and to meet his Master face to face in the bread and the wine, sublimated to Spiritual Gold by the magic of the Mass.

The Plane of the Abstract Mind is the intuitive plane. So the initiation of this plane concerns the intuitive thinking and the power of deductive reasoning. When developed this enables the student to go from the known to the unknown and bring back understanding. This Ray was worked in the Mystery Schools of ancient Greece, and is sometimes called the Pythagorean Ray. It is also the true Wisdom Ray on which is taken the first of the objective initiations. The earlier initiations are concerned only with personality. In these the person explores his inner being, his highest and lowest parts.

The highest part of the personality in incarnation is the Ray of the Concrete Mind. Hermes Trismegistus (thrice greatest) is the Star Logos of this Ray. In ancient Egypt Hermes was the God of Wisdom, of learning and of books. This Wisdom Ray reached its highest development in Egypt and in the Kabala. The Neoplatonists of third century Greece, and the Gnostics, combined Hermetic Ray teachings with Christianity.

THE CRIME OF CATHOLICISM

In later years the leaders of the Church turned on the Mystery School teachings and teachers and hounded them out of existence. The leaders of the Church took only those portions of the Mystery teachings which they thought useful and made them part of the public liturgy and service. During the Dark Ages, while the Catholic Church dominated Europe, the Hermetic Wisdom was preserved only by the Hebrew Kabalists. Then came the Crusades in the 11th Century. The Mystery Schools of Egypt were still alive and active in Palestine. The

worthy followers of the Cross who grouped themselves together as "The Poor Knights of the Temple of Solomon", the Knights Templars, came into contact with the Mysteries in Jerusalem. Some of them took initiations there and eventually carried the Mystery Traditions of the Western world back to Europe with them. For over a hundred years was Europe blessed by the stabilizing influence of the Secret Wisdom made flesh in the bodies of the Templar neophytes and Initiates. The tides of evil waxed again in the early 1300s and the Temple Lodges went down before the onslaught of the Catholic Church. The Secret Teachings were withdrawn to the Inner Planes, not to appear again until the Alchemists became active in Europe after the power of Rome was broken by the Reformation in the 16th Century. The Hermetic teachings are still alive today in Europe and in America.

THE CELTIC RAY

Coming down the planes of consciousness we now are in the Upper Astral Plane. The Ray which corresponds to this plane is known to the Western Tradition as the Celtic Ray. The initiation for this Ray is the higher emotional self. The qualities of the Ray were emphasized in the Celtic race and also in the early Greece of the Dionysian cults. Later, ideas from Egypt came in to add mental stimuli to the early Greek emotional pattern.

In dealing with emotions we use elemental forces, the creatures of the Celtic Ray. These forces are of nature and the initiations are of the emotions. This means that the initiate works toward aesthetic goals; he is not concerned with moral standards. The ideals of the Celtic Ray are beauty and joy, but not truth and goodness. These differences must be kept in mind when we observe the devotee of the Celtic Ray, so impractical from the average point of view. But we need beauty and joy to relieve the dull monotony of regulated, civilised life.

All creative artists derive their power from the Celtic Ray. This is the Ray which inspires imagination of the artist in any medium, whether it be in music, painting, sculpture, writing or architecture. It is the elemental forces of the Celtic Ray which give the hand-made object the charm and warmth which distinguishes it from the machine-made object. The hand-made object may not be as perfect as the factory made object but it is alive with Celtic Ray force put into it by its maker. A hand-made object is ensouled with elemental essence.

It is worthwhile for the student of the Mysteries to study the Ancient Wisdom as expressed by the Greeks in their art and mythology. But for the American it is better to find the Celtic Ray traditions of our own country in the cowboy myths, the regional music and folk art of North, South, East and West, and certainly the art and magic of the American Indians.

THE CLASSICAL TRADITION

The classical tradition, Greek and Roman history, language and art and philosophy, were the ideal of British and American universities for many generations. These studies produced an antique and alien type of artistic and literary beauty. Those who wish to appreciate

this type of beauty must study the civilization which produced the beauty originally; so, the classical student must unify himself with that aspect of the Celtic Ray which inspired the Greek artist, 2,500 years ago. Of course it does not appeal to the ordinary man with a public school education. The contacts with Ray manifestations of another culture do not arise of themselves in a person's soul. They must be carefully built and tenderly nourished like tropical plants.

For the average man Celtic Ray contacts are made through his racial dances, myths, legends and stories. In his own countryside he is nourished with forests, streams and hills of his youth. He senses its beauty without having to be taught by any outsider. This contact opens his whole being to the vitality of nature and takes him back to his childhood "when his soul was open and he still could feel the unseen." The elemental forces become alive in him again -- memories of wind, wave and leaping fire stir his imagination again. These revived memories of long ago are the road to Celtic contact. Dion Fortune says, "The initiate of the Celtic Ray is the immortal child, fool of heaven, ever young but never wise."

The evocation of Celtic Ray forces brings free-flowing energies which make a person want to sing and dance in wild abandon. But the man on the Path must channel these wild energies toward his self-chosen goals.

THE NORSE RAY OF THE LOWER ASTRAL

The Lower Astral Plane was formed by the Ray which we call the Norse Ray here in the West. Nordic mythology gives us the purest contact with the Lower Astral forces. Other Western traditions are too much corrupted. The forces of the Lower Astral Plane are the primitive instincts. They give birth to crude passions -- greed and lust, rage and jealousy. These passions must be sublimated into their opposites, generosity and unselfish love, self-control and trust. There is an ecstasy to initiation on this Ray of the Lower Astral. This ecstasy comes from the raw courage of battle in the Nordic tradition, the berserk frenzy of hand-to-hand combat. In modern America the Nordic Ray passions find a more disciplined release in the body contacts of football and in other team sports.

The Hindu Traditions express their Lower Astral contact in cruelty, the ecstasy of self-mutilation, and the brutalities of the Kali-worship (the goddess of evil passions). As would be expected, phallic worship on the Lower Astral is crude and direct with unmasked sexual symbols. On the Upper Astral levels Dionysian revelries are expressed more indirectly in such things as the Maypole dance.

The Lower Astral Plane and the Nordic Ray are not evil in themselves. These powerful forces are evil only when perverted from the original purpose and twisted to selfish ends by greedy mankind. None of God's creations are evil in themselves. The Norse Ray contacts in their positive aspects are courage, endurance and stability. When man loses touch with these forces he becomes decadent; artificial ways of living take the place of the natural instincts.

The Norse Ray was active during the earliest periods of Man's appearance on the planet. At that time he was governed by his natural instincts and he had not yet developed an ability to think. This is centered in the forehead, the cerebrum. The cerebellum is concerned with the subconscious. For most of us the elemental passions or forces of the subconscious come up only when we are intensely aroused by anger, fear, lust or greed. The controlling part of the brain is then overwhelmed as it were and we lose our "better judgement". The forepart of the brain, the cerebrum, can be deliberately put out of control by the use of drugs.

BLACK MAGIC

It is the Norse Ray, the Ray of the Lower Astral, from which the Black Magician draws his power. So, also, has he contaminated it. Witchcraft works upon this Ray. The highly trained occultist uses the forces of this Ray. He has the ability to contact these forces and he knows how to control them. This is the force which gets things done in the physical world.

The name of the Master of Masters of this plane is a word of tremendous power; of course it is highly secret. The name of the Archangel who guards the gates to the Underworld is no secret. He is the Archangel Michael. His duty it is to prevent the elemental forces from rushing up onto the physical plane, except as they are needed.

THE ETHERIC RAY

The next Ray coming down the planes is the one which created the earth. This Earth Ray is known to be older than the Nordic Ray. Its first manifestation of physical matter was not as dense as the physical planet today. The initiation of this Ray gives control over the Etheric double. The Etheric double is the invisible, vital, fluid force which maintains life in the physical body. Hatha Yoga is the Eastern discipline for training for this contact. The West has no Mystery School for training on this Ray. Dion Fortune calls this the Etheric Ray.

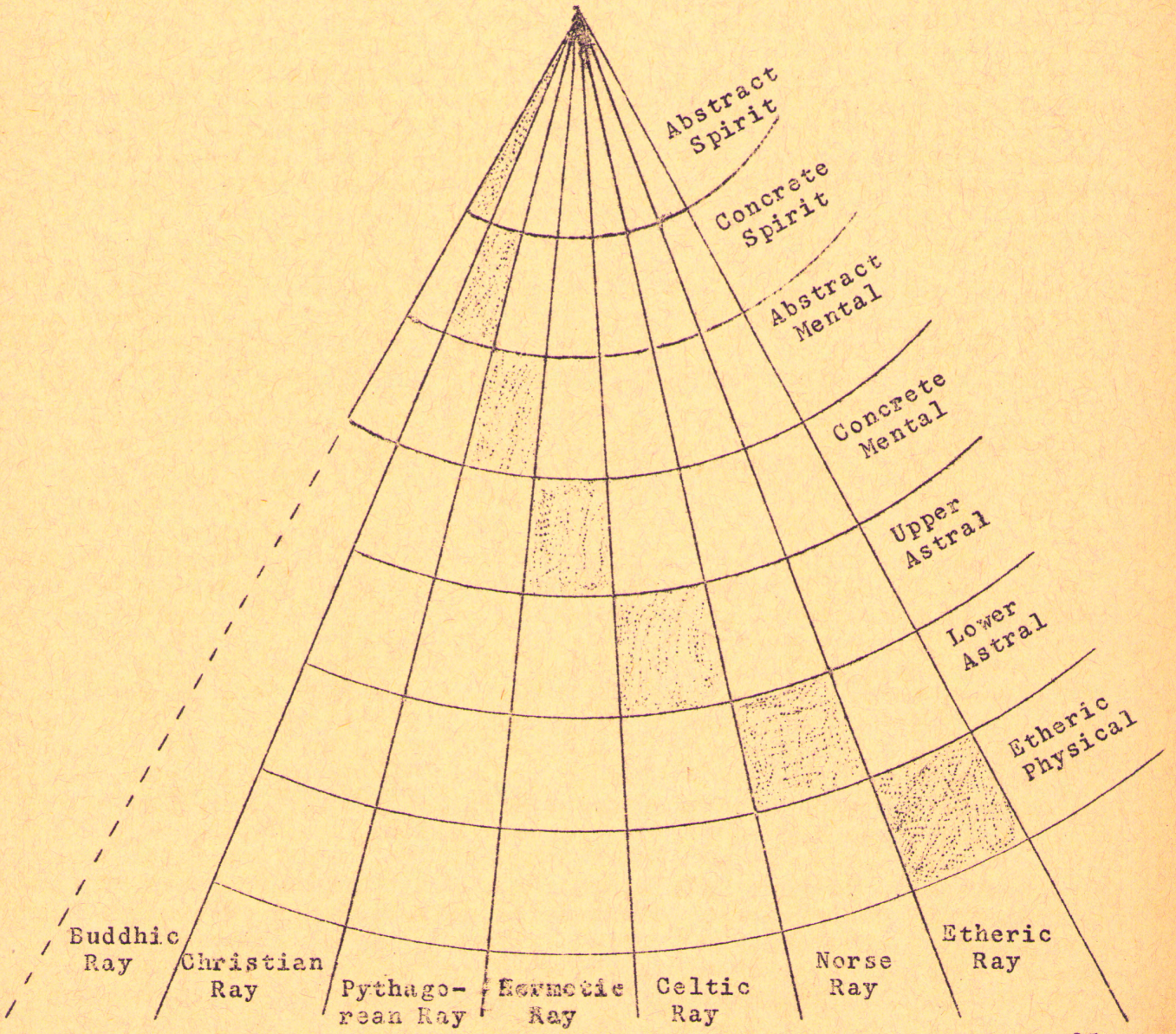
This Ray did the first aspect of its work billions of years ago. Now it is coming into manifestation again on a higher arc. The Etheric matter of the planet and of men's bodies has been used and reused for millions of years until now it responds more readily to the will. At the same time man's mind has developed. Now men realize the power of mind over body and we have such cults as Christian Science and the New Thought movement. When the Christian Science or New Thought Healer does succeed, his operations have taken effect in the Etheric double of the patient. The side-show magician of the East uses this Etheric Ray force in demonstrating fire-walking and the materialization of objects.

We have reviewed briefly the seven Rays which are the forces of creation in our universe. To qualify as an Adept a person should be initiated in contact and control of the forces of each Ray. Dion Fortune says, "The Buddhic Ray lies ahead of evolution; the Etheric Ray in its original aspect lies behind it. The Christian Ray is the

focussing point in the present age." The Star Logos of the Christian Ray is the Master Jesus, who is concerned with the development of our civilization. The other Rays, with the exception of the Buddhic, have been active in the past so we have within us the characteristics of these Rays. They are functioning largely in the subconscious. The student on the Path reviews these Ray characteristics in himself for the purpose of understanding and taking control of them.

The Lord of this epoch is the Master Jesus and His Name is the Word of Power. To each epoch of civilization the Lord Christ comes to set the Spiritual goal for that age. "To each manifestation of the Christ are committed all things in heaven and earth," says Dion Fortune, "including those of His Brethren who have preceded Him in office."

A CHART OF THE SEVEN RAYS AND PLANES



CHAPTER V

THE EVOLUTION AND FUNCTION OF THE MASTERS

There seems to be little agreement among the schools and students of metaphysics as to the definition of the Masters. Some have called a Master one degree lower than God, while others think of Him as the "control" of the spiritualist. Still others think of Masters as having physical bodies and living in homes like ordinary humans. All these ideas have confused the students of metaphysics, tending to give these Divine Beings a lower place on the scale of evolution than they actually occupy.

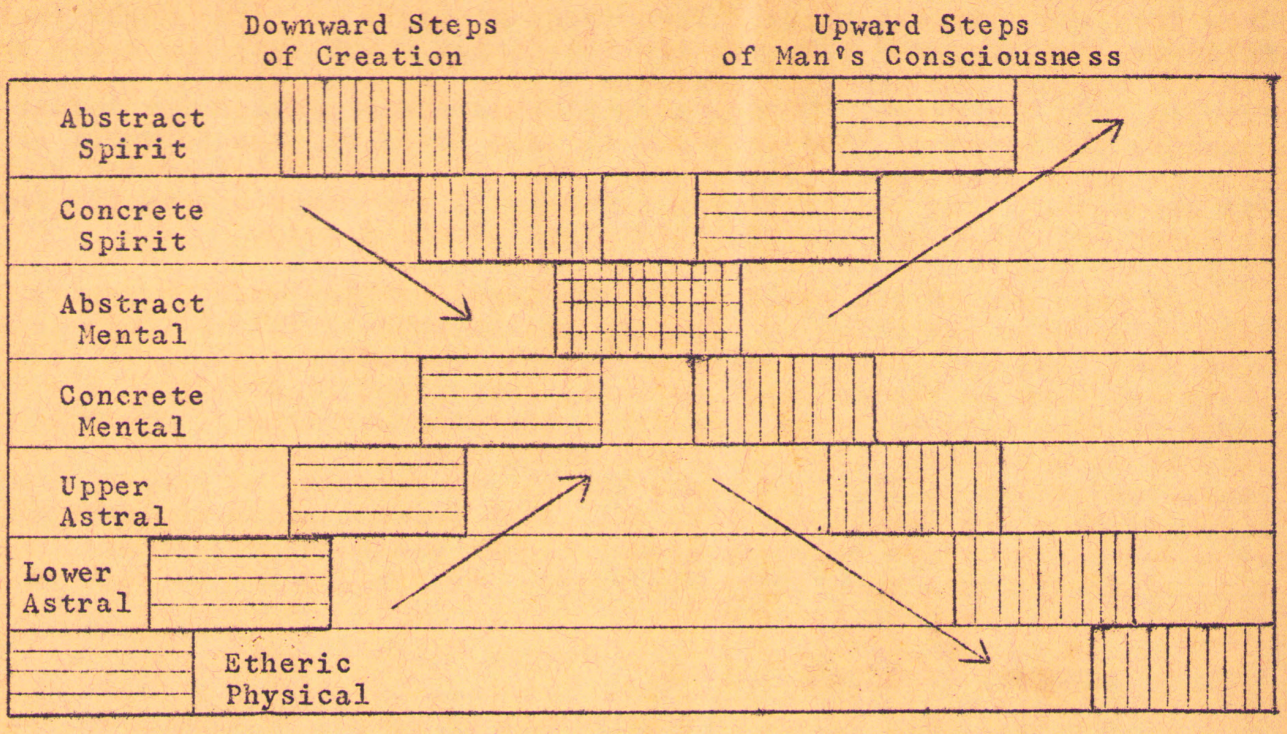
The Masters are always in touch with mankind. Such titles as Adept, Master, Master of Masters, Star Logos and Ray Chohan have been lumped together by students, also their functions and gradations have been mixed. To clarify the title of Master as she uses it, Dion Fortune reserves it "for those who no longer need to incarnate for the performance of their work." She does not apply the title of Master to anyone on the physical plane. She defines an Adept as one who has gone beyond mankind in evolution at its peak. This means that the physical world has nothing to teach him, but the Adept takes a physical body because of the work he wants to do in the physical world. By this definition an Adept is not a divine being yet. He prefers to be considered as an Elder Brother. An Initiate in the Western Mystery Schools is one who has reached and passed a certain grade in the Greater Mysteries. Then the lower grades going down the scale are brother, neophyte, dedicand, server and seeker.

Steps on the Path of Initiation

Star Logos or Ray Chohan
Master of Masters
Master
Adept
Brother
Neophyte
Dedicand
Server
Seeker

Each degree of initiation corresponds to a stage of evolution. The best way to understand the degrees of initiation is to study them in relation to the order of manifestation. The first manifestation therefore is the highest initiation. As each succeeding level of manifestation was added to the universe, a lower grade of initiation was added. In the meantime mankind is progressing upward from plane to plane. This indicates that one day man's ascending consciousness will cross the path of initiation, then man will have cosmic consciousness

ASCENDING CONSCIOUSNESS CROSSES THE PATH OF INITIATION



in his "normal waking state."

To understand the evolution and function of the Masters, let us go back to the Manus, those Beings who achieved Mastership on another planet. When the Manus first came to earth the intelligence of mankind was just about the level of animals, even lower than the primitive savages of today. The Manus helped man to develop his thinking capacity, the one thing which distinguishes man from the animal. Because the Manus had experienced all the stages of evolution on their own planet, it was easy for them to help primitive man to speed through the early stages of his evolution. This brought our earliest ancestors up to the point reached by the previous life-wave before it withdrew from the physical plane.

Humanity now takes up the work left by the Lords of the Mind. At this time the level of consciousness of mankind was little better than that of most animals. Man could perceive his surroundings and his fellow men and remember them, but he had no thinking capacity. He could not organise his physical experiences in his mind and draw conclusions from them. So the work of the Manus was to inspire man with ideas, planting them directly in his mind by telepathy. The ones chosen and responding to this mental stimulation soon found that they could organize their own experiences and draw conclusions therefrom. The Manus encouraged them to practise this mental exercise, thinking. Today the advanced members of the human race are developing their intuitive thinking by means of symbols.

LORDS OF HUMANITY

When the students of the Manus had become thinkers, the Manus withdrew from the physical plane. Then these students in turn taught their followers and prepared them for the initiation which they had taken under the Manus. The earliest students of the Manus eventually achieved freedom from the flesh. Having accomplished their mission for infant humanity the Lords of Mind returned to that level of consciousness or etheric world from whence They came. This is in our Solar system but not on earth. Thus the initiated students of the Manus became the Lords of Humanity. They now are the Initiators of our people.

Perhaps one of the reasons why the Lords of Mind were chosen to help us develop our thinking capacity was because of all the Gods they look most like us. Other Perfected Beings from other evolutions have their own work in the universe as Laws, Forces and Principles. The Lords of Mind have achieved perfection in their own time of evolution. This is considerably below the level which men will achieve when they reach perfection millions of years hence. At present, of course, the Lords of Mind are far superior to us. Dion Fortune gives the example of a dog of two years being in a much higher state of development, comparatively, than a child of two years. So the dog can be made responsible for guarding the child.

LORD OF HUMANITY IS ARCHETYPAL MAN

At the beginning of each civilization or epoch, we find that one of the Lords of Humanity incarnates and establishes the principles which that civilization is to follow. He draws around him a group of advanced students and to these he teaches the Mysteries. He teaches the multitude by example, living the ideal life. He projects into the minds of the people a new standard of perfection, higher than that of the preceding age. Thus He creates a standard by which men can measure their behavior. The Lords of Humanity are the perfect examples of Archetypal man for each successive phase of human evolution. They are the Great Exemplars, but they are more than this for they are Saviors. A most important part of their work is that they take upon themselves the "sins of the world," The Savior of any epoch has to clean up and rectify the errors of the preceding phase of evolution before his new work can properly begin.

An occultist can heal a sick person by substitution. He allows himself to suffer the illness of the sick person, absorbing the corruption within himself. Then he sublimates the suffering by lifting it up to a higher plane. This process has its danger for the occult healer. If the sublimation is not complete the healer may find himself diseased. Healing by sublimation can also be very painful for the occultist. What would have been a long period of suffering for the patient is transmuted into a much shorter period of mental anguish for the occultist. For him the suffering is concentrated at the higher level. He must be careful to observe the Laws of Karma, or his healing may do more harm to the patient than good.

The healing process described above as taking place between the occult healer and his patient has its counterpart on a much larger

scale at the end of an epoch. The Savior of the world is the healer, and the group-soul of the world is the patient. The Savior atones for the sins of humanity by drawing into Himself sufferings and sins unresolved at the close of an epoch, and He lifts them up for sublimation at the mental level. In the few short hours of the Crucifixion are condensed what would have been years of suffering on the physical level. Is it any wonder that He, the Lord of the Purple Ray, said, "Let this cup pass from me."?

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Dion Fortune thus places the Crucifixion at the very heart of the Western Mystery Tradition. She says that the Western Initiate recognises the importance of the Passion and "its ritual presentation in the the Mass." To him the celebration of the Eucharist is as important as it is to the Bishop, Priest and Minister. To the Western Initiate the Eucharist is the supreme contact of his Ray and race. Every race and every Epoch has had its Great Redeemer. The Western Initiate knows this and he knows that all the Great Redeemers have gone through the Sacrificial Death for the sake of mankind.

At the time a Master suffers the Sacrificial Death he becomes a Redeemer of mankind and he does not reincarnate. By so doing he qualifies himself as the Star Logos of His Ray. He then becomes one of the Seven Spirits before the Throne. His work is to focus one of the Seven aspects of the Logos down into the world. He acts as a lens through His personification in the popular religion of the epoch. Dion Fortune says that a personification is not a personality. The Great Redeemer chooses the image or form which He had in one of his previous incarnations and projects this upon the plane of matter.

Many a psychic has reported seeing the Master Jesus in physical form at a certain place. It is not the actual physical form of Jesus which they see; for He has none. It is a personification representing the Star Logos in that place. Some psychics have reported seeing what they thought was a physical incarnation of the Master Jesus at the Sacred Centers in the Himalayas in Tibet, and in the Caucasus Mountains of Southern Russia. This actually means that the Astral body of the seer is projected to one of those Centers in the mountains. There he sees a personification of the Master Jesus and mistakenly thinks that the Master is living there in physical form. This vision really means only that the psychic is functioning there in his Astral body. A trained seer can at times rise to the abstract mental plane to receive inspiration and guidance from the Star Logos of the Christian Ray. Dion Fortune says that the Astral body of the seer may open up while this is going on and he will receive illumination as a burst of Light but at the same time the Astral senses will report a vision of the Master Jesus. It is like a double exposure in one photograph.

THE UNTRAINED PSYCHIC

Another problem is that of the psychic who has had no occult training. He lacks the knowledge of how to test the spirit on the plane and Ray he is working. When some being appears before him the psychic will not know whether it is the creation of his own subcon-

scious or an actual dweller on that plane. He will think he is reading the records of that plane and Ray when more probably he will be seeing his own thought-forms externalized, and as Dion Fortune says, "bringing through pre-conceived notions as visions."

There are many psychis who are not capable of rising above the Astral plane. This means that they interpret their illuminations in picture-forms familiar to them -- men, animals and other familiar objects. Because of this limitation the psychic cannot raise his consciousness to the higher plane of abstract ideals. He can only pick up the ideals as they are reflected in the Astral light. He uses his Astral consciousness as a mirror. Thus he interprets the abstract forces as having form and will describe their appearance. These appearances which he sees are symbols of abstractions which are formless and he interprets them in terms of concrete consciousness when he should interpret them in terms of abstract consciousness. The great English psychic, Anna Kingsford, interpreted her illuminations in abstract terms, but the untrained seer when contacting the Christian Ray will tell "of the Christ standing under a tree in His garden and blessing the world with outstretched hands every evening."

This vision of the Christ standing under a tree has no relation to reality; for the Christ is not a personality. Dion Fortune points out that He is not even individualised? He is the Love aspect of the Logos. Love is the reconciling and regenerating force of the Cosmos; so this is the Cosmic Christ.

THE COSMIC CHRIST FORCE

The Redeemer who is the Master Jesus channels a portion of this Cosmic Christ force through His consciousness to the Western World. It is from this Cosmic Christ force that all the Saviors of the different races, Eastern and Western, channel the regenerative Love of the Logos to the world. But here in the Western World Jesus the Christ is for us "the only Name under Heaven by which we shall be saved." What Dion Fortune means here is that we look to Jesus for the highest initiation which men can take in the world at the present time. Members of the Eastern races look to their Saviors for the highest initiation. To us Westerners Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ. For the past 2,000 years we have been trying to follow principles enunciated by Him so long ago in Palestine.

There has been much talk among Christians about the so-called second coming of the Christ. Leaders of two of the modern Mystery Schools, Annie Besant and Alice Bailey, have looked forward to and have written about the coming World Teacher. But Dion Fortune points out that the looked-for reappearance of the Christ actually concerns the next root race. The new principles He will give will not be for Western Civilization. His new ideas will be too radical to re-generate Europe or America. We are still concerned with the Law of Love which the Master Jesus enunciated 2,000 years ago. Those few who are chosen to father and mother the new race will be the only ones who will answer to the new Teacher when He sends out the call. These self-chosen ones will have to live apart in colonies of their own while the Western world finishes up its evolutionary program and achieves its goals.

Then the advanced souls from the decadent civilization will return later and incarnate in the new root race.

GROUP SOUL IS MORTAL

The advanced souls of the defunct Western civilization will return as individuals, not as a group soul. The group soul of one civilization cannot be transferred to the Manu of another. Even though the group soul of a civilization may have a life-span of a thousand years or more, it is still finite and mortal and must come to an end even as it had a beginning. The Spirit of humanity is immortal. This endures through the billions of years of an evolutionary period on a planet. The Spirit of mankind is universal throughout the planet. Social organizations are as separate as individuals. There is an order of Great Angelic Beings whose work it is to unify the individual souls of the people incarnating in a civilization. We call this Great Deva the Spirit of a nation. It is these Great Beings who prevent the group souls of races or nations from blending, though as Dion Fortune says, "brotherhoods may be formed upon the plane of group consciousness."

The Master Jesus is "an High Priest after the Order of Melchisedec." Dion Fortune contends that Jesus had only two manifestations on the physical plane before His appearance in Galilee. This is according to Western Tradition. His last manifestation was the third and highest and that completed His work here. Western Esoteric Tradition also states that the Master Jesus was not of our humanity. He has now achieved the grade of Cosmic Fire in the Hierarchy; so this makes His most appropriate symbol the Sun.

The Christian Church observes the seasons with its Holy days and "identifies them with incidents in His career." All this gave rise to to the hypothesis of the Solar Myths. There are two sets of facts in the Gospel story of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. One set of facts is the historical story of the Incarnation. The second set of facts deals with the Office of Redeemer which our Lord holds. There is profound meaning in this double story but it is too long to explain in detail here. Dion Fortune says that those who have been enlightened will perceive the true significance of the two sets of facts and will then be able to place our Lord's experience in one or the other categories.

JESUS A MASTER OF MASTERS

The Master Jesus has been confused or associated with other Masters who are below Him in the occult Hierarchy. He is of the same degree with Krishna, Redeemer of India, and with Osiris, Redeemer of Egypt. Jesus is a Master of Masters upon His Ray. Here Dion Fortune distinguishes between the Greater Masters who are the Redeemers and the ones who are termed Regenerators. These latter did not suffer the Sacrificial Death. Dion Fortune identifies the Regenerators as Moses, who gave the Law to Israel; Gautama, who gave the Law to Asia; Mohammed, who gave the Law to Africa; and Paul, who gave the Law to Europe. The difference between the Redeemers and the Regenerators is that the Christs or the Redeemers work with the consciousness of the race, and the Regenerators work with the conscious minds of men.

THE LESSER MASTERS

Below the Greater Masters who are the Regenerators are the Lesser Masters. These are the ones most directly concerned with the teaching and training of mankind. In Christian terms they are the Saints. The occultist calls his teachers the Lodge of the Masters but the Christian mystic calls his teachers the Communion of Saints. Paul refers to the Communion of Saints as that "body of just men made perfect." They have passed beyond the need for incarnation by way of the Cross. Because they loved the Church and worked for it while in mortal flesh, they still love the Church in the spiritual world. So, they still respond to the Sanctus bell with "angels and Archangels and all the company of heaven." They celebrate the Mass of the Grail of which the mystical soul partakes and "the Church of Heaven and earth meet together." So it is the Communion of Saints which makes up the Church behind the church. This is called the Church of the Grail in the Western Tradition and "it is in this body of 'just men made perfect' that the strength of the Church lies."

THE NEED FOR A PATRON SAINT

It is the knowledge of this body of perfect men and belief in their existence that gives power to the prayers to the Saints, and also makes it important that the mystic adopt a patron Saint. A mystic looks toward a patron Saint just as an occultist looks to his Master. Both Saint and Master are lenses through which the Cosmic Power is concentrated. Each is a symbol by which His students can lift their consciousness to the Higher Worlds. The Communion of Saints and the Lodge of the Masters are Elder Brothers who have come by the Path we must tread. They understand the needs of the seekers committed to their care and "out of a deeper wisdom and greater power can give council and help in those small things which seem so big to a struggling soul."

The enthusiastic occult student expects the Cosmos to respond directly to his prayers. But fortunately for him it isn't likely that the Great Cosmic purpose could be turned aside by one little human being. If the occultist did succeed with a direct contact he would be shattered. Cosmic force is for Cosmic purpose. The Saints and the Masters act as mediators between the Cosmos and mankind because they are Cosmic souls. These Cosmic souls can safely handle Cosmic energies, and can focus them on our little individual problems in a way which we cannot do successfully because of our limited minds and physical capacities.

All prayers sent to our Father are undoubtedly answered in due time; but we cannot expect Him to be concerned with our difficult problems. We do not expect the Sun to light fires for us; but when we focus the Sun's rays through a burning glass, we can start a fire. Our world and ourselves are sustained by the Creator of our universe. He will continue to sustain us whether we pray to Him or not. In one way or another we are destined eventually to return to our Father's house. As of now, we cannot understand Him nor His purposes, they are beyond our comprehension, "save in certain advanced meditations when He is approached by means of symbol."

THE UNFATHOMABLE, IRRESISTIBLE MOVEMENT OF THE COSMOS

Great streams of Cosmic Force carry us forward in a movement so vast that we dont even realize we are in it. "It will function whether we worship it or not," says Dion Fortune, "and no prayers of ours can turn it a hairsbreadth from Its course."

The Cosmic Christ is everywhere present, an all-pervading world Force. We open our consciousness to it by aspiration. When we undertake to serve mankind we join our forces with the Christ force. Then Its power floods through us and our consciousness receives illuminatinn. The Christ force is available at any time to help us in our field of service, our cosmic work; but this direct force is not for solving personal problems. These needs are handled by the student's Saint or Master, the Guardian of the soul. He it is who reaches out the hand which sustains the student in his darkest trials. The Guardian brings down this Christ force because if the student were to receive it directly, it would burn his naked soul. It is the work of the Guardian to protect the student, the would-be initiate, when the eyes of his soul are opened to the ineffable glory of the Christ; otherwise his naked soul would be seared.

The Cosmic Christ is a purifying force of tremendous power. When this force strikes a personality all its impurities are burned up in Its regenerative fires. It is part of the work of the Regenerators or the Guardians "to temper the wind to the shorn lamb." By this Dion Fortune means that we imperfect souls must be shielded from the direct light of the Cosmic Christ. The student on the Path who has just become awakened to the Divine Ideal must be lead gently by the Guardian "until such time as he shall be brought to realization and fulfillment."

There are specific meditations which put us in touch with the forces of the Cosmic Christ, but only when we need power for Cosmic purposes. But there are times when we need encouragement and comfort. Then, believing in the reality of Saint or Master, we reach out in faith "through the darkness of the Veil." From behind the Veil we sense the response from the Guardian, as if His hands grasp ours. "Silent in the night the hands may be lifted above the head and the answering grip imaged in the imagination," says Dion Fortune, "and then it may be found that imagination has become a reality. A sudden power touches the soul; an unseen presence is sensed in the darkness; and the wanderer knows he is not alone."

* * *

CHAPTER VI

THE TRAINING AND WORK OF AN INITIATE

Now that we have explained the evolution and functions of the Masters the problem is how to get in touch them. Anyone who seriously studies the material offered by a Mystery School will learn the occult path. This will lead him to the service of his Master. To help the seeker realize how he can contact his Master we shall describe the different stages of apprenticeship which lead to a successful contact.

In all evolution there is only one goal, perfection; and all life is headed toward it in a vast river of Light unchangeable and irresistible. In this great current of evolution are the group souls. For instance, the souls of people who make up a nation are considered to be a group soul. Each group soul is in turn ensouled by a great Angelic Being. This is sometimes called the Spirit of a nation. The physical symbol for the Spirit of America is the Statue of Liberty in New York harbor. Dion Fortune says that the Great Angelic Being "acts as Individuality to the slowly evolving group mind."

There are people who have learned to separate themselves from their group. This is individualisation from within the group consciousness. Each person who separates himself from the group becomes his own master. Almost inevitably he misuses his new powers and only leanns from bitter experience how to use those powers rightly. By the misuse of his powers the rugged individualist generates much Karma for himself and for his race or nation. It is the responsibility of the Great Angelic Being "to counterbalance the composite Karma thus generated." As It is the guiding light of the group soul, the National Angel thus works to maintain the racial poise. If the group soul cannot take care of the evil Karma generated, and the nation is "overbalanced beyond the power of righting," the Angel is forced to withdraw. This means the end of the race or nation and of the group soul which overshadows it.

The group soul dies when the consciousness is withdrawn, just as the body dies when the soul withdraws. Inevitably the individual who separates himself from the group becomes aware the brooding Spirit, the Great Angelic Being, who ensouls the group. He then realises for the first time that he has been receiving Divine guidance, protection and inspiration from the Spirit of his race or group. At this point he is faced with a choice, he must cooperate with the Divine Light, or he can continue to experiment with his own personal life. If he chooses to cooperate with the Divine he "comes out from under the dominion of the group soul and into the jurisdiction of the Lodge of Masters concerned with that group."

As we said in the last chapter, the Lodge of the Masters is another name for that "body of just men made perfect." These men are the souls who have pushed ahead of the rest of mankind and have completed

their human evolution. There are many souls belonging to our race who have reached this height. This is the goal of all mankind, to reach perfection by the end of this Day of Manifestation. Some of those who have reached this state of beatitude by now, have chosen to remain there. This is the Nirvana of the Eastern Schools. While others who love their fellowmen have chosen to remain close to earth in order to help those who are following along behind them. These compassionate ones are those who deserve the title of Master.

AN AMERICAN MASTER

Since 1900, here in California, students of the Mysteries have known of one American who achieved Mastership and chose to remain and work with members of his race. His name is Phylos, the Tibetan, and the story of his successful quest for the Holy Grail is in the book which bears his name. Phylos tells of an American Mystery School with its Lodge in the heart of Mount Shasta in Northern California. He reminds his readers of the discovery of ruins of an Atlantean temple on one of the peaks in the Royal Tetons in Northern Wyoming. Professor Hayden found those granite walls in 1868. This would seem to indicate that there is an ancient Mystery Tradition right here in the western states. It goes directly back to Atlantean colonies flourishing in this area over 11,000 years ago, and Atlantis was the source from which the Western Mystery Tradition originally derived.

Phylos

Of course there are higher ones than these Masters; these have other work to do in connection with the administration of mankind's affairs. These are more properly called Regents. Dion Fortune says the term Lord is usually applied to a Being perfected in an earlier evolution. These Masters are perfected Beings of far higher grades, the Lords of Flame, Form and Mind. They have finished their cycle as far as we are concerned and are gradually withdrawing to more and more remote spheres. The work of these Lords has become "stereotyped by cyclic repetition in the course of vast ages." Then the Regents take over the work formerly done by the Lords. To an occultist this means that in a magical operation designed originally to evoke a Lord of Form he "might find himself dealing with a Regent from the Sphere of Saturn." This is an important distinction, Dion Fortune contends, when one is making an effort to adjust Karma by means of astrological calculations. "The Regents are much more accessible than the Lords."

It must be understood that the work of an Initiate is an integral

and vital part of the process of evolution. A seeker must also realise the importance of the work of an Initiate if he is prepare himself for that work. The processes of evolution are not spontaneous for they are planned and supervised by someone, so believes the occultist. He knows there is a hierarchy of consciousnesses carrying on the work of the universe. Naturally, each Mystery School and religion will have its names for the gods or archangels which make up its particular hierarchy. The average person tends to clothe his gods in human form. Regardless of how these gods and archangels are portrayed in popular religions, the Initiate knows the true significance of these consciousnesses. An apprentice to a Master has to lay aside all those stereotyped images which unenlightened men have created about these entities.

The Gods and Archangels are as far above us as we are above the earthworms. Though the Gods and Archangels differ from us in degree, we are like them because we are self-conscious, thinking entities, as they are. We are at the beginning of the scale in conscious thinking, and Gods and Archangels are far, far above us on a scale which stretches beyond human comprehension. "What we are today They were in the yesterday of Cosmic time, and what They are today we shall be in the Cosmic tomorrow." By this statement Dion Fortune means that Cosmic evolution it not a wild idea of the imagination; for we are taught in biology that the evolution of life developed from the simple cell to the most complex of living organisms, man. Metaphysical science asks us to accept the existence of superhuman and archangelic beings as the logical extension of the biological line of evolution "beyond the point at which humanity now stands."

MAN IS IN THE MIDDLE

The difference between occult science and orthodox science is that metaphysics places man about the middle of the ladder of evolution. Orthodox science places him at the top. With this hypothesis of superhuman goals, occult science believes that man can speed up his evolution through initiations. This doctrine of evolution has always been taught in the Mystery Schools. Now that orthodox science has come to agree with the first part of the hypothesis of the evolution of man from the single cell to his present complex form, we can expect orthodox science to eventually agree with the superhuman part of the hypothesis. Miss Fortune's prophecy of the late 1920s is just making a start at coming true a generation later as Western science speculates on the probability of evolutions superior to ours on other planets in the Milky Way galaxy.

Occult science teaches that our universe, the Solar system, was created and is sustained by a great Cosmic Being. For Him, here in the Western world the name Logos has come into popular use. Logos is the Greek word for law. This Great Consciousness, our Creator, is constantly releasing or projecting new ideas about His universe at some Cosmic level. These ideas are picked up by the Great Star Logoi who then form these into Spiritual ideals. Then the Greater Masters, the next step lower in the line of evolution, convert the ideals into abstract ideas. This brings the Logoidal idea down to the Plane of Abstract Mind. Down to this level or plane the ideas are only pure energy, points of tension in a sea of Light. Now these ideas must be

THE DESCENT OF CREATIVE IDEAS FROM GOD

Logos	--	Cosmos		
↓				
Star Logoi	--	Abstract Spirit		
↓				
Greater Masters	--	Concrete Spirit		
↓				
Masters & Adepts	--	Abstract Mental	--	Group Soul
↓				
Initiates	--	Concrete Mental	--	Group Mind
↓				
Apprentices	--	Astral	--	Mass Emotion
↓				
Mankind	--	Physical	--	Race or Nation

brought into the planes of form. This means that someone has to formulate Logoidal ideas in terms of form. This is where the Adept comes in. He still lives upon the plane of form but He is capable of rising to the higher plane of abstract mind. There He can contact the Masters directly to receive spiritual ideals which He brings down to the plane of matter. This is His function. The Adept plays a very important part in the evolution of the race because He links the Masters and mankind. He gives form to the archetypal ideas which come from the Logoidal consciousness. However, the Adept is not the last link between the Masters and mankind. Because He must maintain footing in the two worlds, of force and of form, He has to live apart from men. If He lived as ordinary men do He would be too deeply immersed in matter to maintain His contacts with the Higher Beings.

The Adept has pupils and apprentices to whom He passes on archetypal ideas to which He has given form. It is the pupils who live out the archetypal ideas on the plane of matter. This is how the creative ideas of the Logos are brought through into manifestation in human consciousness.

When an archetypal idea has been brought down to the plane of matter and has been absorbed by the consciousness of the Adept's apprentice, he makes it a part of his life. This makes the archetypal idea a part of the group mind and group soul of the race to which the apprentice belongs. This archetypal idea is adopted by the race and becomes a part of its subconsciousness.

THE REASON FOR PROGRESS

This new archetypal idea spreads throughout the subconscious of the race. It destroys the ideas which are opposed to it and blends with ideas which are harmonious. This is the archetypal ideas change "the whole of the group mind of the race." The whole evolutionary scheme for mankind is racial, and some aspect of the scheme is being worked out through the group-mind of each race on the planet. Dion Fortune reminds us that "the racial factor cannot be ignored in any question of occult work or initiation." By this she does not mean that

there has to be racial antagonism. The racial differences are a necessary part of the evolutionary scheme at this time. And this will be true, she says, "until such time as evolution shall have brought humanity beyond the plane of form." So, until this happens the differences between races are a fact and any workings of practical occultism will have to take this into consideration.

LEARN THE MYSTERIES BY SERVING

In Mystery School training a pupil of an Adept is more properly called an apprentice. A pupil is a receiver while learning for his own benefit from a teacher whose primary purpose is only education. An apprentice learns too but by sharing in the work of the Master. So the pupil of an Adept is actually an apprentice. He learns by serving the Master. His work is part of the projects and plans of the Master. Whatever he learns he puts into immediate practice in the Master's work shop of daily life. It is the apprentice's performance during this probationary period which qualifies him or disqualifies him for acceptance by the Master. The apprentice knows he has found a true Initiator if the Teacher does not ask a fee. The true Initiator makes His pupils work for their training.

We can understand the work of the apprentice better if we compare him with the scout who precedes the main body of an army on the march. For mankind is a vast army evolving or moving along in one huge column. The scouts are far ahead of the main body, alone, moving swiftly with no baggage and lightly armed. The scout is finding the path for others to follow. Paul speaks of himself as one of these outriders or scouts in I Corinthians 15:8 where he refers to himself as "the child untimely born."

THE VENTURE INTO THE UNKNOWN

How many of us have seen from time to time "some swift footed soul draw ahead of the great army of mankind and push on alone into the wilderness." For awhile he pushes forward by himself, until eventually he catches up with the line of scouts far ahead of the main body of mankind. But before he can join this courageous band he must be able to give the password. If he is accepted as one of them he joins that adventurous company blazing a new trail for evolution. He patrols the trail alone and still he is always within signalling distance of his comrades; by prearrangement he will at times gather with the other scouts and the leader for council.

In occult work there are certain times and places when the council is held, according to the initiatory degree being worked. There is one council which has no location. This is the Supreme Council of the Great White Lodge. This august body meets beyond the planes of form, but the Star Lodges of the Rays have their points of contact on the physical plane. Dion Fortune mentions the Himalayas in Tibet, Mecca in Arabia, Jerusalem in Palestine, and "its English equivalent." We wonder if that last might not be Glastonbury Abbey, the Avalon of King Arthur, where Joseph Arimathea is supposed to have brought the Holy Grail to England in the First Century. And for Western America the possibility we mentioned before, Mount Shasta in Northern Calif-

ornia. These holy places even though some of them are now only ruins from the physical point of view, they remain points of focus for apprentices and for students still held to the plane of matter. These holy places enable them to get their bearings.

A NEED FOR ASTRAL PROJECTION

The Masters of the Inner Planes can descend down as far as the Upper Astral. Here they create the form so dearly familiar to the aspirants from the Teacher's last earth life. The aspirant for Initiation who can free his consciousness from the physical brain and rise to the Upper Astral can meet his Master face to face when he is called. The holy place may be visited in the physical body but for most aspirants it would more likely be the Astral. There two ways the aspirant can go. If he is a trained occultist he will make a conscious projection to the holy place in the Astral world. The other way is for him to be taken by his Master; he remembers the experience as a dream. In either case the aspirant is never quite the same again because "he has met the Great Light face to face and its Glory remains upon his countenance."

AND A NEED FOR THE PASSWORD

When these gatherings take place they cannot be profaned by the uninitiated because an unseen power keeps them off. This repels even the living creatures on the physical plane. When the protective veil is drawn about the holy place absolute stillness reigns. Then begin the great vibrations, slowly at first, and gradually increasing in intensity with pulsing rhythms, tingling, throbbing, overlaying each other in a pattern of harmony at once heavy and yet light. This dramatic atmosphere is created at all of the holy places whether Pagan or Christian. "A strange heat beats up from the ground even in mid-winter," says Dion Fortune, "and the Astral fire glows 'til every object is rimmed with light." The fragrance of incense pervades the air of the place and yet there is no mortal hand to burn it. There also is a host of invisible presences gathered closely around the holy place and more behind them in graded ranks, tier after tier, sweeping upward like a vast stadium as far as eye can see. This great celestial host performs "the Astral ritual that links spirit with matter." The elemental forces are awakened also by this ceremony; so under this holy place is heard a roaring like a river in flood; for "it is on the high tide of the world of form that we pass out to the world of force."

An aspirant fortunate enough to visit the holy place remembers it well. It will shine out "like a star in the dark night of the soul; he who, having set his hand to the plow, turns not back when the toil in the darkness begins but works on awaiting the dawn, meets the Master face to face and returns to the plow-tail again with that glorious memory to comfort him:

> "Yea, though Thou then shouldst strike him from his glory,
> Blind and tormented, maddened and alone,
> Even on the Cross would he maintain his story,
> Yea, and in Hell would whisper, 'I have known.'

"It is the seeker who remembers in Hell what was shown him on the Mount who attains to Illumination."

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ical Society, then in its heyday. She was much attracted by some of its teachings and its officers, though equally repelled by others. The works of Madam Blavatsky were held in high esteem by her, but she did not find what she was looking for in the Eastern bias of the Theosophical Society and was much opposed to the use of eastern methods of training applied to the conditions of the West.

"Later she was an initiate of the Order of the Golden Dawn and left the Main Temple for a branch formed under another name. Eventually she resigned from this and founded the Society of the Inner Light, holding her authority and her contacts direct from the Inner Planes and the Hierarchy. These contacts and authority, developed and expanded, passed from her to her successors, as is the way of succession in properly founded fraternities.

"I have given a very brief outline of the more overt life of a great initiate who from the date of her first independent contacts with the Inner Hierarchy -- made at Glastonbury in 1926 -- to the day of her death, was unceasing in her pursuit of the reality behind appearances. In her various books, articles and writings generally she has given many details of her own life, and those who are interested will have no trouble filling in the chapters whose headings I have briefly sketched.

"It was inevitable that a courageous and outspoken woman should have trodden on sundry corns in the course of a lifetime spent in working for a sane understanding of the great way of life and vital truths behind what was, when she started her career, largely a tawdry and bombastic screen of pretence. Her preface to The Mystical Qabalah and references therein and in others of her works leave no doubt of her point of view, or of the hostility of some interests she had damaged by giving out publicly what it was right and just should be known generally.

"Esoteric practice and training is rightly kept secret and imparted only to those considered worthy to receive it for it can do damage otherwise; but the lofty philosophy and metaphysics of the Ancient Wisdom (which is also the Modern Wisdom) should be available for all; and indeed to help in making them available is a privileged and consecrated task -- and not a task for simpletons, however well-meaning."

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Anyone interested in studying the Western Mystery Tradition as put forth through the Society of the Inner Light should write to the Secretary, 38 Steele's Road, London NW3, England.

Dion Fortune produced a considerable body of occult literature during her lifetime. Among the most important of her works are probably The Mystical Qabalah, Psychic Self-Defense, Practical Occultism In Daily Life, The Cosmic Doctrine, and two occult novels, The Sea Priestess and Moon Magic. For listings, prices and availability of these write to the Society of the Inner Light .

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